

UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Resolution To Oppose Removal of the Earmarking of Income Tax for Education

Whereas the Income Tax Subcommittee of the Legislative Tax Reform Task Force sent, with its favorable recommendation, a request that the Constitutional Revision Commission review eliminating the earmarking of income tax for education; and

Whereas the recommendation breaks the State of Utah's long-standing agreement with its residents, made at the height of the Depression, that income tax proceeds would be spent solely on the education of their children; and

Whereas the Constitutional designation of income tax revenue sends a powerful message about the importance of public education in Utah, and removing the earmarking suggests that public education is less important today than it was a century ago; and

Whereas we believe that Utah's system of public education is not adequately funded today; and

Whereas Utah schools will be sorely challenged in the next ten years, even at inflation-adjusted funding levels, to adequately educate 140,000 new students, many of whom will not speak English as a first language and many more of whom will be living in poverty; and

Whereas the Legislature already exercises significant flexibility with income tax revenues as evidenced in the \$1.7 billion of income tax proceeds that have been spent outside of public education since 1996 when income tax revenue use was broadened to include higher education; and,

Whereas proponents of the constitutional change have yet to offer any compelling reason to change Utah's basic law in this matter;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Utah State Board of Education, as follows:

That the Board declares its opposition to the elimination of the constitutional earmarking of income tax for education and urges the Legislature **NOT** to pursue amending the Constitution to remove the earmarking of income tax revenue for public education.

The foregoing resolution is hereby approved and adopted by the Utah State Board of Education at its regular public meeting held in Salt Lake City, Utah on the 2nd day of September, 2005.

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

By _____

Kim R. Burningham, Chairman
Utah State Office of Education

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